

About the Organization

Woodstock School is a non-profit, International school located in the Himalayas in Northern India. Established in 1854, Woodstock has been a pioneer in providing experiential education that is intentionally and positively welcoming, and is inclusive of the diversity of belief and practice within our community.

Woodstock has had a rich legacy over the last 160 years of its existence. The school is now focusing on its future, with a deliberate effort to elevate its status as one of the best institutions of learning in Asia. Internally known as Vision 2020, this initiative is a bold attempt to leverage our bound to have far-fetched impact on the school, and will help achieve the learning outcomes that we desire from our students. One of the main pillars of this vision is to strengthen Woodstock's engagement with our neighboring community. The idea is to provide Woodstock students and interns with the understanding, knowledge and tools to become agents of change by engaging more deeply and collaboratively with local communities to address identified needs.

<http://www.woodstockschool.in/>

Location

Mussoorie, India, about 7 hours by road from New Delhi. Situated at an elevation of 7,000 ft, Mussoorie offers a temperate climate in summer, and a safe, secure environment. It has traditionally been multicultural, with a sizable number of expats and foreigners

The Initiative

DOST, meaning friend in Hindi, is the acronym for Woodstock's Development and Outreach Student Team which is currently involved in various community development projects, mainly in the Thatyur region. These projects followed our initial response to meet the basic needs of villagers in the area after the devastating flooding and landslides caused by cloudbursts in June 2013. These floods which affected most of Utrakhand were reported worldwide, a reliable estimate of the loss of human lives has still not been established. A further cost was in the loss of livelihoods.

In November 2013, Woodstock committed to working long-term with two specific villages in the Thatyur area - Dunda and Nikurchi, with a total of 75 families. Since then, Woodstock has helped restore some of the agricultural infrastructure that was lost in the floods and has raised money to provide vocational training to residents.

Many projects are now underway, within the areas impacted by the floods and otherwise, including:

1. Building of Primary School and Multipurpose Hall. The old school was damaged by flooding and rubble and is currently right in the course of the river's new course! The new location has room for more classrooms and space to play.
2. Teaching sewing on sewing machines to girls who have completed grade 12. Ten girls at a time are being sponsored through a four month training period at the completion of which successful candidates will receive a sewing machine.
3. Professional Development Opportunities for Farmers. Students of Woodstock organize presentations by scientists, lecturers and other authorities on good practices in agricultural,

dairy, fish, and poultry farming. We are especially interested in promoting organic farming in the area.

4. Promoting menstrual hygiene through counselling and the distribution of sanitary pads that are environmentally friendly and cheap to manufacture. These are manufactured on the school campus.
5. A Clean Mullingar – working in collaboration with the senior most officials for the Cantonment Board for Mussoorie to set up procedures for a sustained garbage management system. Much time is being spent on the planning of the procedures so that once they are implemented, they are efficient and sustained.
6. Organizing tutorials for the students of an impoverished village called Kaplani. This project was adopted after Woodstock students investigated the reason for only 5 out of a total of 13 students who passed the examination last year.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Identify sustainable opportunities of employment for villagers and help train and mentor them
- Help in the education of primary age children in basic language and arithmetic skills
- Help develop social skills for village children
- Tackle issues around hygiene and sanitation in a rural environment
- Ideate on longer term sustainability of education and employment programs
- Develop and deliver enrichment activities to our children based on their own areas of interest, passion and expertise
- Help create a brand for the community engagement initiative through social media and web presence

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Passion to work for the betterment of the poor.
- Desire to work with children to enhance their learning and development
- Knowledge of Web technologies, protocols, and tools– desired, but not essential

Schedule: Summer internship opportunity of up to 8 weeks in duration.

Eligibility and Application

This internship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students interested in social change, sustainable development and community relationship. The intern should possess a willingness to learn and share, be reliable and committed to seeing projects from start to finish, and demonstrate a service-oriented attitude.

Budgeting for this internship:

Accommodation: \$500/month

Food: \$300/month

Transportation: \$200/month

Application Process:

Please send your detailed CV to SanjayaMark@woodstock.ac.in, with a brief explaining the reason you would like to work with us